

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Some records of *Macrosteles quadripunctulatus* (Kirschbaum) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae)—*M. quadripunctulatus* is a species of rather infrequent and sporadic occurrence in Britain. Le Quesne (1969) was able to give only a single locality for it: Braunton Burrows, Devon. There have since been a number of additional records from southern England, and it has become clear that the species can live in a range of dry habitats, the important requirements for the species being low, often sparse vegetation on a dry and well-drained substratum (Kirby, 1992). The following summary of my own recent captures of this insect gives further details of localities, adds further localities and counties to those reported in Kirby (1992) and exemplifies some of its known habitats.

Murston, East Kent (TQ9266), 2.ix.1984, exact circumstances of capture unknown, three specimens found amongst a mixed bag collected from a rather wide area including dry grassland and ruderal vegetation;

Kew, Surrey (TQ2076), 9.ix.1984, a single male collected from sparse low vegetation on a small area of waste ground largely surfaced with fine gravel—though only a single specimen was taken owing to lack of suitable equipment, *Macrosteles*, any or all of which could have been *M. quadripunctulatus*, were common over an area of several square metres, along with the Heteroptera *Chlamydatus pullus* (Reuter), *C. saltitans* (Fallén) (Miridae) and *Saldula orthochila* (Fieber) (Saldidae), amongst vegetation consisting in large measure of small plants of *Trifolium repens* L. and low grasses, growing to a height of a few centimetres at most and giving only about 50% ground cover;

Brancaster, West Norfolk, TF765449, 7.ix.1991, a single specimen taken by sweeping sparse grassy vegetation behind the fore-dunes, at a transition to sandy saltmarsh;

Snettisham, West Norfolk, TF658337, 7.ix.1991, two specimens found by sweeping dry grassland on a bank of coastal shingle;

Sandy Heath, Bedfordshire, TL204492, 15.ix.1996. Common amongst very sparse grasses in the base of a sand quarry;

Collyweston Quarries, Northamptonshire, TF003037, 12.ix.1990, a single male taken, along with many *M. laevis* (Ribaut), by sweeping very low sparse vegetation consisting mostly of small Fabaceae and fine grasses in a recently disturbed area on oolitic limestone, just beyond the boundary of a Trust reserve and SSSI;

Maxey South Pits, Northamptonshire, TF126073, 9.viii.1992, frequent amongst sparse grassland and ruderal vegetation on level, recently disturbed, well-drained ground beside recently disused gravel working;

Thornhaugh Quarry, Northamptonshire, TF047002, 10.viii.1992, common on sparsely vegetated limestone at the top of a disused quarry;

Kingsbury, Warwickshire, SP218986, 18.viii.1998, frequent amongst very sparse grasses on a sandstone ledge in a quarry.

It seems rather clear that *Macrosteles quadripunctulatus* has a wide distribution in southern England, that though it has some fairly specific habitat requirements these can be brought about by disturbance or harsh conditions in quite a wide range of habitat types, including recent ones of human origin, that quite small areas of suitable habitat are able to support colonies, and that it is probably a rapid colonist. The species is accorded the status of Notable A in Kirby (1992), a status necessitating the occurrence of the species in no more than 30 ten-kilometre squares of the

National Grid in Britain. This status is evidently inappropriate in the light of recent records; in reality, it is probably no more than local.—P. KIRBY, 21 Grafton Avenue, Netherton, Peterborough PE3 9PD.

REFERENCES

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 Le Quesne, W. J. 1969. Hemiptera, Cicadomorpha, Deltocephalinae. *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* 2(2b).

Gastrallus immarginatus (Müller, P. W. J.) (Col.: Anobiidae) in Gloucestershire—Ever since the discovery of a major wood-decay beetle fauna on the Cotswold outlier of Bredon Hill in Worcestershire (Mendel, 1992, 1996; Whitehead, 1996) I have been exploring similar habitat along the Cotswold scarp with the expectation of finding a similar fauna. The discovery of *Ampedus rufipennis* (Stephens) at its first Gloucestershire site is reported elsewhere (Alexander, 1999), and I have now found *Gastrallus*. It is likely, too, that *Limoniscus violaceus* (Müller, P. W. J.) will be found in the county. The characteristic tiny exit holes of *Gastrallus* were noted in clusters in trunk bark on an old open-grown field maple, 22.xi.1998, in the parish of Prescott (SO990290). The tree had a well-lit trunk, a noticeable feature of the *Gastrallus* trees on Bredon Hill.—KEITH N. A. ALEXANDER, 14 Partridge Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1BQ.

REFERENCES

- Alexander, K. N. A. 1999. *Ampedus rufipennis* (Stephens) (Elateridae) new to Gloucestershire. *Coleopterist*, 8 (1): 1–6.
 Mendel, H. 1992. *Limoniscus violaceus* (Elateridae) Müller at Bredon Hill, N. N. R., Worcestershire. *Coleopterist* 1 (2): 5.
 Mendel, H. 1996. *Gastrallus immarginatus* (Müller, P. W. J.) (Anobiidae): a second British locality. *Coleopterist* 4 (3): 86–87.
 Whitehead, P. F. 1996. The notable arboreal Coleoptera of Bredon Hill, Worcestershire, England. *Coleopterist* 5 (2): 45–53.

Two unusual records of Tortricidae (Lepidoptera) from Essex.—Recently Mr Brian Goodey, via Mr Ben Fisher, submitted to me for identification two specimens of Tortricidae which had been collected in different localities in north Essex (VC19). They proved to be of unusual interest and so I venture to give details and comments on them below. The specimens and genitalia slide preparations are in Mr Goodey's collection.

Cydia illutana (H.-S.). 1 ♀, Coggeshall, 31.v.1997, B. Goodey. The locality lies within the grounds of an old manor-house and comprises a deer-park and arboretum. The latter contains a wide range of specimen trees including a stand of European larch (*Larix decidua*), the assumed hostplant. *C. illutana* is very poorly known in the U.K. and apparently has not been recorded from Essex before. It has proved difficult to find a good published illustration of the female genitalia of this species and so the opportunity is taken here to figure this example (Fig. 1: one apophysis omitted). The genitalia are similar to those of *C. conicolana* (Heylaerts) (figured by Bradley *et al.*, 1979, page 253) but the genital plate is more distinctly sub-rectangular, the colliculum is longer and more distinctly sclerotized, and the signa are larger and longer.

Celypha arbutella (L.). 1 ♂, Dovercourt, 7.viii.1997, C. Gibson. In the British Isles this species is typically found in northern locations. Bradley *et al.* (1979) give its distribution as “. . . the Scottish Highlands, ranging northwards to